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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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11 September 1969

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Approved For Release 2004/03/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A014500070002-2

Approved For Release 2004/03/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A014500070002-2

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Approved For Release 2004/03/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A014500070002-2

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NOTES

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USSR-Berlin: Foreign Minister Gromyko expects to discuss the recent Allied note on Berlin with Secretary Rogers when the UN General Assembly opens next week. A Soviet Foreign Ministry official has insisted that Moscow intends to talk with the US before involving the British and French. He did not indicate when the Soviets will deliver a formal reply, which they may be delaying until after the West German elections on 28 September. The hasty visit of East German Foreign Minister Winzer to Moscow last week suggested that Moscow's proposed response was meeting objections in Pankow.

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Israel-Syria: The two Israeli passengers held by Syria from the hijacked TWA plane were visited on Monday by an International Red Cross official who has reported them well. Their release does not appear imminent. Italian diplomats in Damascus believe that Syria is embarrassed by the affair, but for domestic political reasons cannot release the Israelis without some balancing action by Israel. Israel remains opposed to working out a swap for the two Syrian pilots it holds and continues to urge the US and international organizations to exert stronger diplomatic and other pressures.

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